

REMARKS

Claims 1-17, of which claims 1, 9, and 14 are Independent Claims, are currently pending. In the October 27, 2004 Office Action, Claims 1-8 are allowed. Claims 9-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,785,891

5 Applicants have cancelled Claims 9-17 without prejudice. Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 1-8.

If there are any additional matters that may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at (312) 913-0001.

10 Respectfully submitted,

McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff LLP

15 Date: 11/15/04

By: 

Thomas E. Wettermann
Reg. No. 41,523